

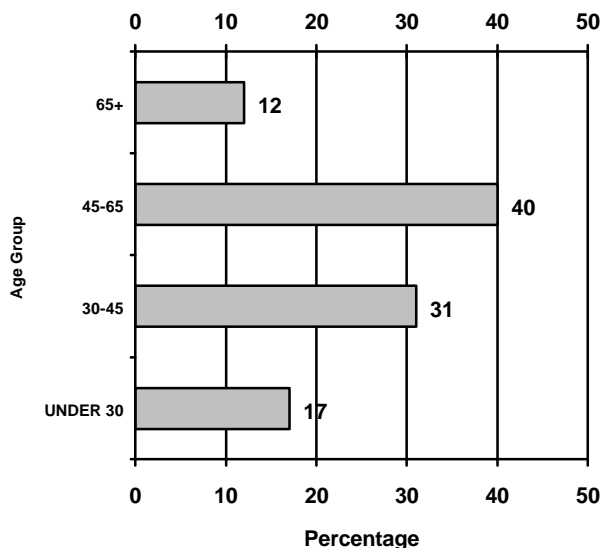
## VI. BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEY

The Polk County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey is a randomly selected, representative sample of the residents of the county. The survey that was used is a telephone interview format, modeled after the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control. The survey collects information from adults on health behaviors and preventive practices related to several leading causes of death such as chronic diseases, injury, and HIV infection. The overall statistical reliability of the survey is a confidence level of 90, plus or minus 6%.

Adults were randomly selected using random digit-dialed telephone surveys and were questioned about their personal health practices. In addition, they were asked to rate various community health issues. A Likert scale was utilized, asking respondents to identify issues as a definite problem, somewhat of a problem, not a problem, or not sure. A sample size of 200 was collected from Polk County. *Issues recognized as potential problems are in bold and are denoted by asterisk.*

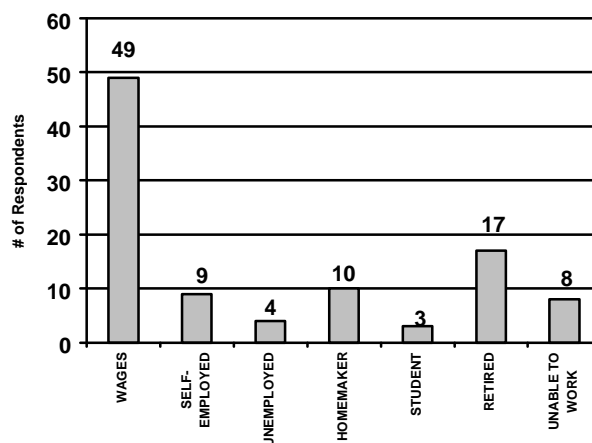
### **Behavioral Risk Factor Demographics**

- Of the 200 respondents, 97 were male, 102 were female, of those 70% were married, 7% divorced, 8% widowed, 14% single, and 1% were unmarried couples.
- 196 respondents were white, 2 were African American, 1 was American Indian, and 1 other. Two of the respondents claimed a Hispanic origin.
- The largest portion of respondents fell within the 45-65 year old age group.



- Approximately 24% of the respondents had less than a high school education, 41% had earned their high school degree, 23% had some college and 12% were college graduates.

- A majority of the respondents (49%) earned their living through wages, while 17% were retired.



- The household income levels of the respondents were well dispersed with the largest group earning between \$35,000-\$50,000.

